

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11642 232052Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9671
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11642

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: GAUS-NIER MEETING

REF: BONN 11356 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY. FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION CHIEF GAUS
AND GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIERMET ON JUNE 21 TO
OPEN FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN AND TO CONTINUE THE HIGH-LEVEL
MEETINGS OF THE PREVIOUS WEEK. ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO
HAVE BEEN A WORKING-LEVEL SESSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES

OF THE GDR TRANSPORT MINISTRY, THE MEETING WAS ELEVATED
TO THE POLITICAL LEVEL AT GDR REQUEST TO EMPHASIZE
TO THE PUBLIC THE EXTENSIVENESS OF THE ISSUES NOW
BEING DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. END
SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 BONN 11642 232052Z

1. AT THE JUNE 23 BONN GROUP MEETING, THE FRG REP
(VON BRAUNMUEHL) REPORTED ON THE JUNE 21
MEETING BETWEEN GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NIER AND
FRG PERMREP CHIEF GAUS. THE MEETING, WHICH WAS
ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN THE FIRST BETWEEN GAUS AND
WORKING-LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE GDR TRANSPORT MINISTRY
ON THE BERLIN-HAMBURG AUTOBAHN, WAS ELEVATED TO THE

NIER LEVEL AS A RESULT OF A GDR REQUEST THE DAY BEFORE. ALTHOUGH THE AUTOBAHN WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY SUBJECTS DISCUSSED, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO CONSIDER THE MEETING TO BE THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON THE PROJECT.

2. VON BRAUNMUEHL SAID THE HOUR-LONG MEETING WAS

DEVOTED TO THE VARIOUS ISSUES DISCUSSED DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL FRG-GDR TALKS OF THE WEEK BEFORE (REFTEL). THE ATMOSPHERE WAS BUSINESS-LIKE TO FRIENDLY, AND NIER WAS OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO ASSURE THAT THE MEETING WENT WELL. ON QUESTIONS OF SUBSTANCE, HOWEVER, NIER MADE IT PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT THE GDR DID NOT INTEND TO GIVE ANYTHING AWAY, BUT WOULD LOOK AFTER ITS OWN INTERESTS JEALOUSLY.

3. NIER EXPLAINED THE GDR'S TOUGHNESS BY SAYING THAT MOST OF THE ISSUES TO BE NEGOTIATED WERE PROJECTS DESIRED BY THE FRG FOR POLITICAL REASONS, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO WEST BERLIN. HE NEVERTHELESS ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EMPHASIZING THAT THE OFFICIAL BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS REPRESENTED BY THEIR MEETING WAS "NOT A SMALL, BUT A LARGE STEP" IN THE DIRECTION OF A REASONABLE BALANCING OF INTERESTS BETWEEN THE TWO GERMAN STATES.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BONN 11642 232052Z

4. NIER SAID THAT THE ELEVATION OF THE MEETING TO HIS LEVEL WAS MEANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS OF THE WEEK BEFORE HAD BEEN SO EXTENSIVE THAT A FURTHER MEETING AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WAS NEEDED. IN THIS CONTEXT NIER, REFERRING TO THE REPORT OF THE GAUS-HONECKER MEETING IN THE JUNE 19 EDITION OF "DER SPIEGEL," CRITICIZED INDISCRETIONS CONCERNING THE HIGH-LEVEL TALKS. HE SAID THE GDR STRONGLY DISAPPROVED AND WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT BE STRAINED BY PUBLICITY AND ESPECIALLY NOT BY DISTORTED REPORTS.

5. VON BRAUNMUEHL COMMENTED THAT THE GDR HAD HANDLED THE GAUS-NIER MEETING SO AS TO EMPHASIZE ITS POLITICAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PUBLIC. HE SAID THAT NO DETAILS WERE DISCUSSED IN THE MEETING, HOWEVER, AND THAT THE VIEWS NIER EXPRESSED ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES DID NOT GO BEYOND WHAT HAD BEEN LEARNED FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEKS' MEETINGS. STOESEL

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